Myfuture CBC Revision

literature in english - Grade 10

Question Paper

1. What distinguishes a legend from a myth in oral narratives?

A. Legends are always set in an undefined, mythical time and involve gods
B. Legends are short animal stories with a moral at the end

C. Legends are scientific explanations for natural events

D. Legends are told as if they happened in the past and often involve historical figures

2. What is the main purpose of a praise song (or praise poetry) in oral tradition?

A. To record stock market prices

B. To celebrate a person's achievements, status or lineage

C. To provide technical instructions on farming equipment

D. To teach foreign languages

3. Which criterion is most useful when assessing the quality of an oral literature performance in class?

A. If the performer wore formal school uniform

B. Clarity of delivery, audience engagement, appropriate pacing and faithful cultural
C. How many props were bought

D. Whether the performer memorised the story word-for-word

4. Which element best helps establish the mood of a poem?

A. Number of stanzas

B. Rhyme scheme alone

C. Choice of words and imagery

D. The poet's date of birth

5. Which option defines assonance?

A. A poem's central message

B. The pattern of unstressed and stressed syllables

C. Rhyming at the ends of lines only

D. The repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words

6. What is a play in literature?

A. A written script meant to be performed on stage, with dialogue and stage directions
B. A collection of poems arranged around a single theme

C. A long narrative usually told by a single narrator and printed as a book
D. A factual report describing real events and people

7. Which choice best explains why humour is often used in Kenyan plays that deal with serious social issues?

A. Humour guarantees the play will be a comedy film

B. Humour helps engage audiences and can make difficult topics easier to discuss
C. Humour ensures the play is never taken seriously

D. Humour replaces the need for a plot

8. How does oral poetry typically handle language to aid understanding by many listeners?

A. It uses clear imagery, repetition, and familiar cultural references
B. It uses long, complex sentences without pauses

C. It avoids any descriptive imagery

D. It uses highly technical and private vocabulary

9. Why is local cultural knowledge important for performing oral literature effectively?

A. It ensures references, customs and humour make sense to the audience
B. It allows the performer to speak in a foreign language instead
C. It prevents the performer from adapting the performance

D. It helps the performer ignore audience expectations

10. What is an effective classroom activity to help students understand autobiography?

A. Only read fictional novels

B. Copy a biography verbatim

C. Memorise a list of unrelated dates

D. Write a short personal sketch about an important event in their life

11. What is an epic in oral literature?

A. A long narrative poem about heroic deeds often recited or sung
B. A list of names recorded by elders

C. A short proverb used to teach children

D. A printed travel guide for tourists

12. When a student in Nairobi writes about how a national event affected them personally, this journal entry best shows which feature?

A. Personal response and reflection

B. Scientific analysis with data

C. Fictionalisation of characters

D. Objective reporting of facts only

13. Epic oral poems commonly serve to:

A. Describe modern computer code

B. List village tax records

C. Provide recipes for local dishes

D. Tell the story of heroes, battles or the origins of a people

14. Which grammatical device creates contrast by repeating a grammatical pattern, e.g., 'She came, she saw, she conquered'?

A. Metaphor

B. Anaphora

C. Parallelism

D. Allusion

15. Which of these is a common opening for an autobiography?

A. A list of unrelated trivia

B. A description of an imaginary kingdom

C. A scientific experiment with variables

D. An explanation of how the author was born or early childhood memory

16. When analysing a short story for class assessments, which practice is most useful?

A. Copying someone else's answers

B. Citing textual evidence to support interpretations of theme, character and
C. Memorising the author's biography only

D. Ignoring symbols and focusing only on plot summary

17. Which pronoun is most appropriate to use when writing personal feelings and experiences in a private journal?

A. I

B. He

C. You

D. They

18. By the time the class discussed the ending, the teacher ____ the novel twice.

A. had read

B. read

C. reads

D. was reading

19. What is oral-formulaic composition in the context of oral poetry?

A. A method of composing using fixed phrases and patterns to create new verses during
B. A technology for printing songs quickly

C. A dance move performed with the chorus

D. A strict written rulebook that cannot be altered

20. In oral song performance, what is the role of a chorus?

A. To translate the song into another language silently

B. To decide which songs are legal

C. To write down the song for future publication

D. To provide repeated lines, harmonies, and responses that support the lead singer

21. How does modernization (radio, recordings) affect oral songs in Kenya?

A. It always destroys the songs' cultural value

B. It makes oral songs impossible to perform live

C. It erases all traditional melodies instantly

D. It can spread songs more widely but may change performance contexts and encourage

22. What is dramatic irony?

A. When a story is told in chronological order

B. When characters know more than the reader

C. When the author explains every detail to the reader

D. When the reader knows something a character does not

23. Which of the following is an example of 'consonance'?

A. Describing in detail the scent of a flower

B. The repeated 't' sound in 'silent night, soft light'

C. Using 'as' or 'like' to compare two things

D. A stanza of exactly three lines

24. What does the term 'blocking' mean in theatre rehearsals?

A. Blocking out audience view with curtains

B. Counting how many people enter the theatre

C. Designing the poster for the play

D. Planning and rehearsing actors' movements and positions on stage

25. What is the best definition of an autobiography?

A. A true account of a person's life written by that person

B. A fictional story based on real events

C. A collection of poems about a family

D. A report about a person's life written by a historian

26. Which of the following is an example of social satire in Kenyan plays?

A. Teaching how to plant maize in a classroom

B. Mocking political hypocrisy to encourage change

C. Showing only silent pantomime with no social message

D. Describing detailed weather patterns for a whole act

27. Which element of a play tells us where and when the action happens?

A. setting

B. ticket price

C. curtain call

D. cast list

28. Which of the following is true about setting in Kenyan short stories?

A. Setting is not important in short stories

B. Setting can include place, time, and cultural context that affect characters' choices

C. Setting is always a city named Nairobi

D. Setting only refers to weather and never to culture

29. Which of the following best explains why an autobiography might not be completely factual?

A. Memory is selective and the author may interpret events from their personal viewpoint

B. Authors always invent events to entertain

C. Autobiographies are written by historians only

D. Autobiographies must be fictional by definition

30. Which of the following is a well-known autobiography that Kenyan students might study?

A. The River Between by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

B. Unbowed by Wangari Maathai

C. A Grain of Wheat by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

D. The Constant Gardener by John le Carré

31. My friends and I ____ excited about the school trip.

A. were

B. was

C. are

D. is

32. Which sentence correctly uses punctuation for an interrupted thought in a journal entry?

A. I was going to tell her — but then the bell rang.

B. I was going to tell her but then — the bell rang.

C. I was going to tell her - but then the bell rang.

D. I was going to tell her, but then the bell rang.

33. What does 'imagery' usually refer to in poetry appreciation?

A. The year the poem was published

B. The exact number of syllables per line

C. The poem's rhyme scheme

D. Language that appeals to the five senses to create a mental picture

34. Why are everyday social values often embedded within oral narratives?

A. To punish anyone who attends a storytelling session

B. To make the stories boring so no one listens

C. To replace the need for schools entirely

D. To model acceptable behaviour and warn against social taboos

35. Which element would most likely create dramatic tension in a Kenyan play about land ownership?

A. A long description of the land's weather in the programme notes
B. A scene where no one speaks and nothing happens

C. A list of names printed in the playbill

D. A public hearing scene where evidence and accusations are exchanged

36. Why do schools study autobiographies in Literature in English?

A. To learn real-life perspectives, themes of identity and historical context
B. Because they never mention real events

C. Because they are written in verse

D. Because they are always shorter than novels

37. A poet uses a sentence fragment: "Dark. Cold. Empty." Grammatically, what is the effect of using fragments instead of full sentences in a poem?

A. Fragments — create sharp emphasis and mimic speech or strong emotion by leaving out
B. Complex sentences — provide detailed explanation and subordinate clauses
C. Interrogatives — ask questions to engage the reader

D. Relative clauses — give extra information about a noun

38. Which statement best describes the transmission of oral literature?

A. It requires printing before being shared

B. It is only transmitted through formal schooling

C. It is passed down by word of mouth and may change over time
D. It is fixed permanently once created and never altered

39. In 'Njoki's Wedding', the main conflict is between Njoki and her family over whether she should move to Nairobi. What kind of conflict is this?

A. Person vs. Nature

B. Person vs. Supernatural

C. Person vs. Society

D. Person vs. Technology

40. When a writer uses an autobiographical approach but deliberately changes some events for artistic effect, the work is called:

A. Encyclopedia entry

B. Autobiographical fiction

C. Historical textbook

D. Scientific report

41. Which is an example of a dramatic monologue in poetry?

A. A poem that lists weather conditions

B. A poem without any imagery

C. A poem that only uses free verse

D. A poem where a single speaker addresses a silent listener revealing character and situation

42. Who wrote the novel 'Dust', which examines political violence and family history in Kenya?

A. Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor

B. Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye

C. Grace Ogot

D. Meja Mwangi

43. Which point of view is most commonly used in an autobiography?

A. First person point of view (I/we)

B. Omniscient narrator with no personal involvement

C. Second person point of view (you)

D. Third person point of view (he/she/they)

44. In Kenyan oral performance, what role does the audience often play?

A. They supply the performer with a written script

B. They must always remain completely silent and still

C. They judge the performance without responding

D. They provide verbal or physical feedback that shapes the performance

45. Which date format is commonly used in Kenya and suitable for journal entries?

A. Year only (for example: 2026) with no day or month.

B. Month/Day/Year (for example: July 5, 2026) only used in UK schools.

C. A continuous number code without dates is required by law.

D. Day Month Year (for example: 5 July 2026).

46. In staging a play set in a Kenyan town market, which element best helps to create a realistic sense of place for the audience?

A. Blackout curtains at the end of every scene

B. Sound effects of bustling traders and local music

C. An abstract painting on the backdrop

D. A written list of characters handed to the audience

47. Which of the following is a common purpose of writing an autobiography?

A. To teach government policy in a classroom

B. To provide fake endorsements for products

C. To explain personal experiences, inspire readers, and preserve memories

D. To create a fantasy world with magical rules

48. How many lines are there in a traditional sonnet?

A. Eight

B. Fourteen

C. Twenty

D. Ten

49. Which short oral form often relies on rhyme, rhythm and simple repetition to be easy for children to remember?

A. Long epic

B. Nursery rhyme

C. Legal document

D. Biography

50. Choose the correct adjective order: which is better English for describing opinion then age?

A. a Kenyan beautiful old novel

B. a beautiful old Kenyan novel

C. a beautiful Kenyan old novel

D. an old beautiful Kenyan novel